

DAHLIA PLANT NAMED 'COCOS'

Genus and species of the plant claimed:

Dahlia hortorum

5 Variety denomination:

Cocos

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Dahlia* plant, botanically known as *Dahlia hortorum*, and hereinafter referred to by the name
10 'Cocos'. The new cultivar 'Cocos' is a product of a planned breeding program and was selected by the Inventor, Jan Skjold Knudsen, in Fyn, Denmark.

Asexual reproduction by cuttings of the new variety in Fyn, Denmark has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as described herein for 'Cocos' are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of asexual
15 reproduction. The new variety reproduces true to type.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

'Cocos' has not been tested under all available environmental conditions and the phenotype may vary with variations in environmental conditions such as temperature, light intensity, day length and humidity, without a change in genotype of the plant.

20 The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Cocos'. The following characteristics in combination distinguish 'Cocos' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Yellow flower color, RHS 2B;
2. Compact plant habit; and

3. Vigorous growth habit.

Of the commercial cultivars known to the Inventor, the most similar in comparison to 'is a *Dahlia* variety named 'Malaysia' (unpatented). 'Cocos' differs from 'Malaysia' primarily in flower color. 'Cocos' has yellow flowers, RHS 2B, whereas the
5 flower color of 'Malaysia' is light purple RHS 75A to 75B. The leaves and inflorescence of 'Malaysia' are smaller than the leaves and inflorescence of 'Cocos'.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color photographs illustrate the overall appearance and details of flower form color and structures of the new cultivar, showing the colors as
10 true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in color reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which more accurately describe the actual colors of the new *Dahlia*.

The first photograph is a side view of a typical flowering plant of 'Cocos' as
15 grown in an 11 cm pot. The second photograph is a top view of a typical flowering plant of 'Cocos'. The third photograph is a close-up of the flower of 'Cocos'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following observations, measurements and values describe 8 week old plants grown in 11 cm containers under commercial conditions. Plants described
20 were grown in a greenhouse in Fyn, Denmark with average day temperatures of 18 C to 25 C, and night temperature of 16 C. All color references are measured against the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart. Colors are approximate as color depends on horticultural practices such as light level and treatment rate, among others, without however any variance in genotype.

PLANT:

- Form: Globular, upright
- Height: 15 cm
- Spread: 18 cm
- 5 Natural flowering season: Summer to fall
- Crop time: After rooting, about 10 - 12 weeks are required to produce
finished flowering plants in 11 cm pots
- Plant vigor: Vigorous
- Root structure: Fibrous
- 10 Stem: Yellow-green RHS 144B, glabrous
- Lateral branches: 12 – 14 in quantity; 7-10 mm diameter; 10 cm in length
(including flower)
- Internode length: 3 cm
- Foliage:
- 15 Quantity: 4 – 5 pairs per lateral branch
- Arrangement: Opposite, decussate
- Length: Up to 10 cm
- Width: 6 – 7 cm
- Shape: Elliptical, acuminate tip, decurrent base, crenate margin
- 20 Texture: Glabrous
- Color: Young leaf upper side: green RHS 135 A; young leaf underside
gray-green RHS 189 C
- Venation: Vein color upper side 135C, vein color under side 144A
- Petiole: 4 – 5 cm in length; 5 – 8 mm in diameter; color RHS 144A

FLOWER:

- Arrangement: Composite flowers in leaf axils
- Inflorescence type: Capitulum
- Inflorescence height: 3 – 4 cm
- 5 Inflorescence width: 6 – 7 cm
- Flowering habit: Upright
- Quantity of flowers: 2 per lateral stem
- Flower longevity: 7 days on the plant

Bud:

- 10 Quantity: 3 per lateral stem
- Shape: Globular
- Size: Up to 2 cm in length, 1 cm diameter
- Color: RHS 144C

Petal:

- 15 Appearance: Disc, tubular to single, fused petal; ray almost circular,
to involute at the sides
- Shape: Disc, lanceolate; ray oval, involute
- Number: Disc, 5 fused; ray, 5 fused
- Length: Disc 3 – 4 mm, ray 25 – 30 mm
- 20 Width: Disc 3 mm, ray 25 – 30 mm
- Margin: Entire
- Apex: Rounded
- Color: Upper side, yellow RHS 2 B (mature and immature), under side
RHS 2 C (both mature and immature)

Sepals:

- Length: 10 mm
- Width: 5 mm
- Margin: Entire
- 5 Base: Fused
- Apex: Rounded
- Color: Immature upper side RHS 138A; immature under side RHS 143D with stripes RHS 143A; mature upper side RHS 137A; under side RHS 191B with stripes RHS 143A

- 10 Calyx: 3 mm length, 17 mm diameter

Peduncle: 4 – 6 cm length, 3 mm diameter; strength: strong; color RHS 144C

Reproductive organs:

- Anthers: 4 mm in length, RHS 23B
- Pollen: RHS 14A
- 15 Pistils: 1 disc, 1 ray per floret, 15 mm length
- Stigma: RHS 14A
- Style: 9 mm length, RHS 14A
- Ovary: RHS 150B

Temperature tolerance: High tolerance to 35 C; low tolerance to 0 C